

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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NAIROBI FOR UNEP

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ROME FOR FOOD AG

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJ: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING THE UN: APRIL 20
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

REFS: (A) USUN 1652; (B) USUN 1544

1. SUMMARY: AT APRIL 20 MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP,
EC-9 SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD AGREED ON A PAPER
TO BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY (TEXT ATTACHED), AND THE G-77
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REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEIR PAPER WOULD

BE READY FOR CIRCULATION BY THE END OF THE WEEK. UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL NARASIMHAN FORMALLY INTRODUCED THE REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (A/AC.179/L.8) EMPHASIZING THAT IT PRESENTED OPTIONS RATHER THAN RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESTRUCTURING. WORKING GROUP IS TO MEET ON FRIDAY, APRIL 23, AND TO CONTINUE IN SESSION THROUGH THE WEEK OF APRIL 26-30. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE APRIL 20 MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING, BELGIUM ANNOUNCED THAT THE EC-9 HAD AGREED ON A PAPER WHICH WOULD BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY. A COPY OF THE TEXT, SLIGHTLY REVISED FROM THAT TRANSMITTED REFTEL B, IS TRANSMITTED BELOW. THE G-77 REPRESENTATIVE (MEXICO) ANNOUNCED THAT THEIR DRAFTING GROUP HOPED TO COMPLETE ITS WORK THIS AFTERNOON, THAT THE G-77 AS A WHOLE WOULD CONSIDER THE DRAFT ON APRIL 22, AND THAT THEY HOPED TO HAVE IT AVAILABLE FOR CIRCULATION BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

3. UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL NARASIMHAN FORMALLY INTRODUCED THE REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (A/AC.179/L.8) EMPHASIZING THAT IT PRESENTED OPTIONS AND POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION RATHER THAN ACC CONSENSUS OR RECOMMENDATIONS. HE CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE REPORT:

(A) GENERAL ASSEMBLY: THE NEED TO CONSIDER PROGRAM AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS PRIOR TO TAKING FINAL DECISIONS;

(B) ECOSOC: THE RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY BODY BASED ON ACC MEMBERSHIP AND UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL "COMPOSED, AS APPROPRIATE, OF THE HEADS OF AGENCIES, PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS" (WHICH RECOMMENDATION NARASIMHAN DESCRIBED AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS);

(C) OTHER FORUMS: NO RECOMMENDATION ON UNCTAD SINCE COREA HAD INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS;
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(D) REGIONAL COOPERATION; THE EMPHASIS ON INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL REFLECTED THE CONCERN OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS;

(E) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES; THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A MECHANISM FOR THE OVER-ALL REVIEW OF PROGRAMS RATHER THAN THE PRESENT COMPARTMENTALIZED ARRANGEMENTS;

(F) PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND EVALUATION:
PRIMARY CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF MEDIUM-TERM PLANS;

(G) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION: THE NEED TO RE-ENFORCE THE ROLE OF THE ACC SO THAT IT CAN PERFORM OVER-ALL COORDINATION;

(H) SECRETARIAT SUPPORT: NO COMMENTS.

4. NARASIMHAN'S PRESENTATION EVOKED LITTLE RESPONSE, THOUGH THE REPS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN CHIDED THE ACC FOR PRESENTING OPTIONS RATHER THAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOR BEING VAGUE IN ITS FORMULATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO THESE AND OTHER COMMENTS, NARASIMHAN SAID THAT THE ACC WAS PREPARED TO DRAW UP SPECIFICS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND MODALITIES IN ANY AREA INDICATED BY THE WORKING GROUP AND THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE ACC WERE PREPARED TO APPEAR IN PERSON BEFORE THE WORKING GROUP TO STATE THEIR INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS.

5. ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF CHAIRMAN DADZIE, THE WORKING GROUP AGREED TENTATIVELY TO MEET ON APRIL 23 (DEPENDING UPON WHETHER THE G-77 PAPER IS AVAILABLE) AND TO EXTEND ITS SESSION THROUGH THE WEEK OF APRIL 26-30.

QUOTE:

SOME PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF THE DELEGATIONS OF THE NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON RESTRUCTURING

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AREA N. I)

A PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK IS TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE THE DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PROMOTING COHERENT AND WORLD WIDE POLICIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS. DECISIONS THAT ARE REACHED IN RESPECT OF PROBLEM AREAS II-VIII WILL ALL BE DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS OBJECTIVE. IN THE VIEW OF THE NINE DELEGATIONS THE MORE PRACTICAL APPROACH IS TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS IN RESPECT OF THESE INDIVIDUAL AREAS, AND THEN TO CONSIDER THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WIDEST OF THESE AREAS, THAT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH AS THE SUPREME ORGAN SHOULD DEVELOP ITS ABILITY TO TAKE AN OVERALL VIEW. IN OTHER WORDS, WE PROPOSE TO WORK FROM THE PARTICULAR TO THE GENERAL, NOT VICE VERSA.

THE SECOND AND THIRD COMMITTEES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION, SINCE THESE SESSIONAL COMMITTEES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE MACHINERY WHICH THE ASSEMBLY HAS TRADITIONALLY CHOSEN TO ESTABLISH EACH YEAR. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RAISED WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY ABOUT SOME REORGANIZATION OF THIS MACHINERY. HOWEVER, THOSE PARTS OF THE ASSEMBLY'S AGENDA WHICH FALL WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ARE FOR THE MOSTPART ALSO SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL. SINCE THERE WERE INDICATIONS IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S GENERAL DEBATE THAT AN EARLY CONSENSUS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED IN RESPECT TO PROBLEM AREA II, WE THINK THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ASSEMBLY BEFORE WE HAVE REACHED CONCLUSIONS ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE ACHIEVED IN ECOSOC. SUCH IMPROVEMENTS WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE IMPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE INPUT TO THE ASSEMBLY.

NEVERTHELESS, IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS STAGE TO GIVE SOME BROAD INDICATIONS OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF THE APPROACH TO ECOSOC WHICH WE SET OUT BELOW. OUR MAIN OBJECT WOULD BE TO HELP THE ASSEMBLY SIMPLIFY THE TASK OF COVERING ITS ALREADY OVERBURDENED AGENDA. RECENT EXPERIENCE IN ECOSOC HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THE VALUE OF GROUPING A NUMBER OF AGENDA ITEMS UNDER A SINGLE SECTORAL

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HEADING. WE SUGGEST THAT THIS APPROACH COULD USEFULLY BE EXTENDED TO THE ASSEMBLY'S HANDLING OF SIMILAR AGENDA ITEMS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELD. WE SUGGEST BELOW THAT ECOSOC SHOULD PRESENT TO THE ASSEMBLY ADVICE ON THE AGENDA ITEMS WHICH IT HAD ALREADY DEBATED IN ORDER TO ASSIST IN SUCH A GROUPING OF ITEMS.

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ECOSOC (AREA N. II)

THE NINE DELEGATIONS BELIEVE THAT THE TASK OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO ENABLE ECOSOC TO FULFILL ITS ROLE AS DEFINED IN THE CHARTER (CHAPTERS IX AND X). BY AND LARGE ECOSOC HAS SO FAR RARELY ACHIEVED THIS. IN PRACTICE, THE COUNCIL ALL TOO OFTEN SEEM TO CONSIDER ITSELF NEITHER SUFFICIENTLY COMPETENT TO DEAL WITH TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AT THE SO-CALLED "EXPERT" LEVEL, NOT SUFFICIENTLY COMPETENT TO TAKE MAJOR DECISIONS OF POLICY.

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WE THEREFORE HAVE TO CREATE CONSIDITIONS IN WHICH ECOSOC CAN BE BOTH SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE AND SUFFICIENTLY EFFECTIVE TO HANDLE BOTH TECHNICAL DISCUSSION AND MAJOR POLICY DISCUSSION AS THE NEED ARISES.

AS FAR AS POLICY DISCUSSION IS CONCERNED, EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT ECOSOC'S REGULAR WORK PROGRAMME HAS OFTER BEEN OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE DOMINANT ECONOMIC ISSUES OF THE DAY. THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN A PRISONER OF ITS TRADITIONAL

AGENDA: ITS DISCUSSIONS HAVE BY AND LARGE FAILED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC IMPACT. TO OVERCOME THIS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE COUNCIL TO DEVOTE MUCH MORE CARE TO THE PLANNING OF ITS WORK PROGRAMME AT THE BEGINNING OF ITS ANNUAL CYCLE. UNDER THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS 1768 (LIV) AND 1807 (LV), THE COUNCIL IS ALREADY REQUIRED TO SELECT MAJOR ISSUES TO FOCUS ITS WORK IN THE YEAR. THIS SELECTION SHOULD BE RELATED TO THE DOMINANT ISSUES OF THE TIME, WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING WORK ON THESE QUESTIONS UNDER THE COUNCIL'S AUSPICES THROUGH THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR: THIS WORK, WHICH COULD INCLUDE DIRECTIVES TO THE SECRETARIAT, SHOULD PREPARE THE GROUND FOR AN EFFECTIVELY PREPARED MAJOR DEBATE ON THESE ISSUES AT THE COUNCIL'S SUMMER SESSION. SUCH DEBATE SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED AND OF A HIGH QUALITY JUSTIFYING MINISTERIAL ATTENDANCE.

THE SUMMER SESSION COULD THEREFORE PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AGREEING AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL ON A COMMON INTERNATIONAL APPROACH TO SUCH ISSUES.

ECOSOC HAS NOT TO DATE MADE MUCH USE OF THE FLEXIBILITY PROVIDED IN THE U.N. CHARTER FOR ITS WORKING TIMETABLE. IN THE VIEW OF THE NINE DELEGATIONS THIS INHERENT FLEXIBILITY COULD BE USED TO ADVANTAGE TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL IN ESTABLISHING ITS ROLE BOTH FOR POLICY DISCUSSION AND TECHNICAL DISCUSSION. SHORT SUBJECT-ORIENTED SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE SCHEDULED EITHER TO CONSIDER NECESSARY ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN A PARTICULAR FIELD, OR TO PREPARE OF RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF TECHNICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN IN SPECIALIST BODIES. IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AD HOC SESSIONS COULD SERVE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE

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OF DISCUSSION IN ECOSOC ON A PARTICULAR SUBJECT.

IN OUR VIEW IT IS A BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT THE U.N. SYSTEM IS PROVIDED WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EFFECTIVE EXPLORATION OF ISSUES AT BOTH EXPERTS AND POLICY LEVELS, BEFORE CONCLUSIONS ARE DRAWN. WE THINK THAT AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF THE TRADITIONAL AGENDA OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL TO SEE PRECISELY HOW THE COUNCIL CAN ENSURE THAT THESE TWO REQUIREMENTS ARE EFFECTIVELY MET. ON THE BASIS OF THIS REVIEW THE WORKING GROUP COULD THEN PROCEED TO EXAMINE THE STRUCTURE OF THE ECOSOC MACHINERY.

AT THE END OF ECOSOC'S MAJOR WORK PROGRAMME IN EACH YEAR, THE COUNCIL SHOULD PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ABOUT ORGANIZATION OF WORK IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR THOSE ITEMS WHICH HAVE APPEARED ON THE COUNCIL'S

AGENDA IN THAT YEAR. IN ITS REPORT, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL SHOULD INDICATE, FOR INSTANCE, THOSE ITEMS WHICH IT HAS EXPLORED THOROUGHLY, AND SHOULD ALSO IDENTIFY QUESTIONS WHERE MAJOR ISSUES HAVE BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR THE ASSEMBLY, AND PERHAPS ALSO INDICATE ITEMS WHICH, IN THE COUNCIL'S VIEW, MIGHT BENEFIT FROM FURTHER DISCUSSION AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL BEFORE COMING BACK TO A LATER SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY. THIS SECTION OF THE COUNCIL'S REPORT WOULD THEREFORE BE A BASIC DOCUMENT WHEN THE ASSEMBLY AND ITS MAIN COMMITTEES CONSIDER THEIR ORGANIZATION OF WORK; WHILST ITS RECOMMENDATIONS CAN ONLY BE ADVISORY, SUCH INDICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL SHOULD HELP TO STREAMLINE THE BUSINESS OF THE U.N. SYSTEM THROUGH THE YEAR. IN EFFECT, THE COUNCIL WOULD PROVIDE ANNOTATIONS ON ITEMS ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DRAFT AGENDA.

THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF ECOSOC COULD BE FURTHER ENHANCED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIAL SUBJECT-ORIENTED SESSIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. ONE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT USE OF SUCH SESSIONS COULD CONCERN MAJOR ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, WHEN A NEW ISSUE BEGAN TO BE IDENTIFIED AS MERITING SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL; A FIRST STEP MIGHT BE TO CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF ECOSOC FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE ALONE. THE SESSION SHOULD BE SET SOME MONTHS AHEAD,

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IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THOROUGH PREPARATION BOTH BY GOVERNMENTS AND WITHIN THE U.N. SYSTEM. THE COUNCIL'S DEBATE COULD, ON SOME OCCASIONS, BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH TO THE ISSUE: IN OTHER CASES, THE COUNCIL MIGHT CHOOSE TO RECOMMEND SPECIAL DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE EITHER AT THE ASSEMBLY OR IN SOME OTHER INSTITUTION OF THE U.N. SYSTEM, OR, AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 62 OF THE CHARTER, AT A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

IN ORDER TO REALIZE THE IMPROVEMENTS IN ECOSOC'S PERFORMANCE WHICH WE SEEK FROM THE APPROACH OUTLINED IN THIS PAPER, THE COUNCIL'S BUREAU, THE U.N. SECRETARIAT AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN THE COUNCIL'S WORK.

OTHER U.N. FORA FOR NEGOTIATIONS INCLUDING UNCTAD AND OTHER U.N. ORGANS AND PROGRAMMES THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, IAEA AND AD HOC WORLD CONFERENCES (AREA N. III)

IN A NUMBER OF OTHER U.N. FORA FOR SECTORAL MATTERS, CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON RE-ORGANIZATION ARE TAKING PLACE IN A VARIED AND DIVERSIFIED MANNER. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY NOTED THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY UNCTAD,

IN TERMS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1995 AND INTENDS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE FORTHCOMING DELIBERATIONS AT UNCTAD IV. SIMILAR INFORMATION ON THE ROLE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER SECTORAL ORGANS SHOULD ALSO BE GATHERED FROM THEM WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A COHERENT AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH.

THE CONSIDERATION OF WHAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED COULD BE BASED ON SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT E/5453/REV. 1, PART II AND III (CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH ECOSOC'S WORK ON RATIONALISATION), AS A LIST OF REFERENCE FORA WHERE NEGOTIATIONS MAY TAKE PLACE.

THE NINE DELEGATIONS TEND TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF HAVING SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RATHER THAN AD HOC WORLD CONFERENCES MERITS SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH SOME MERIT IS SEEN IN CONFERENCES CALLED TO FRAME SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT ON CLOSELY DEFINED SUBJECTS.

REGIONAL COOPERATION (AREA N. IV)

THE NINE DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE REGIONAL COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE U.N. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS AND THE KEY ROLE OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS IN THAT RESPECT, THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD EXAMINE THE WAY IN WHICH PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK CAN BE BROUGHT TO ECOSOC'S ATTENTION IN A FORM SUITABLE FOR COHERENT DISCUSSION AND ACTION WHENEVER NECESSARY.

THE GROUP SHOULD ALSO EXAMINE WAYS TO HARMONIZE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AND THOSE OF OTHER U.N. BODIES.

IN DISCUSSING REGIONAL COOPERATION, THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENCES AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VARIOUS REGIONS.

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES (AREA N. V)

IN THE COURSE OF THE YEARS, VOLUNTARY FUNDS FOR
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES HAVE INCREASED IN NUMBER, WITH
INTENTION OF MOBILIZING SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES. THE NUMBER
OF SPECIAL FUNDS, HOWEVER, HAS PROBABLY INCREASED TO AN EXTENT
THAT REDUCES THEIR MARGINAL PRODUCTIVITY IN TERMS OF THE
RATIO BETWEEN ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE FOR ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

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IN THE EXERCISE OF STREAMLINING THE U.N.
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES' MACHINERY WE FIND OURSELVES CONFRONTED
WITH TWO SEEMINGLY DIVERGENT NEEDS:

A) TO TRANSLATE INTO OPERATIONAL TERMS (AND MACHINERY)
A MOMENTUM EXISTING IN INDIVIDUAL SECTORS WHEN
THESE BECOME THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY;

B) TO ENSURE AN OVERALL COHERENCE OF THE SYSTEM
AND AN OPTIMAL RATIO BETWEEN INCREASED ADMINISTRATIVE
COSTS, MOBILIZATION OF NEW RESOURCES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
NEW PROGRAMMES.

ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THE DELEGATIONS OF THE NINE
HAVE ADVOCATED INCREASED CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES FOR
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE CREATION OF NEW VOLUNTARY FUNDS
SHOULD BE RESISTED WHENEVER A BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE TWO
NEEDS WAS NOT BEING MAINTAINED.

IN THE EXISTING SITUATION, THE NINE DELEGATIONS
FEEL THAT ANY INSTITUTIONAL RESTRUCTURING IN THIS
AREA SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A DETAILED ANALYSIS, IN THE
WORKING GROUP, OF THE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FINANCED FROM
VARIOUS SOURCES.

ANY RATIONALIZATION ATTEMPT SHOULD NOT REDUCE
THE VOLUME OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES
AND, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, INCREASE IT.

AS A TENTATIVE APPROACH, THE NINE DELEGATIONS WOULD
LIKE TO SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING BROAD GUIDELINES AND
OBJECTIVES FOR THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING VOLUNTARY FUNDS WHILE
SAFEGUARDING, AS APPROPRIATE, A SEPARATE IDENTITY FOR
MAIN SECTORS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE;

- CREATION OF A MECHANISM FOR EVALUATION OF
ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND DEVELOPMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF PROJECTS
THE NINE FIND WORTH EXPLORING - IN PARTICULAR, THE EXPERIENCE
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GAINED BY THE WORLD BANK (PAGES 10-11 OF MR. MCNAMARA'S STATE-
MENT) AND ANY OTHER IDEA WHICH MAY BE PUT FORWARD IN THE
WORKING GROUP;

- EXPLORATION OF THE POSSIBILITY FOR UNIFICATION
OF PROCUREMENT SYSTEM;

- UTILIZATION OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING SYSTEM
AS A TERM OF REFERENCE FOR COORDINATION ALSO OF OPERATIONAL
MEDIUM-TERM PLANS AND PROGRAMMES FINANCED BY AGENCIES AND

OTHER U.N. BODIES OUT OF THEIR OWN RESOURCES;

- MEANS OF IMPROVING THE COORDINATION, AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL LEVEL, OF THE U. N. SYSTEM'S OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES;

- REVIEW AND AS APPROPRIATE REORGANIZATION OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE U.N. SECRETARIAT.

PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND EVALUATION (AREA N. VI)

THE NINE DELEGATIONS ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON U.N. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MACHINERY.

WHILE RECOGNIZING THE ADVANTAGES OF A DEGREE OF PLURALISM AND AUTONOMY OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THE NINE DELEGATIONS BELIEVE THAT ECOSOC, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION, SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE CONCEPTION AND REALIZATION OF PROGRAMMES.

IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO FIRST HARMONIZE PLANNING CYCLES IN THE DIFFERENT U.N. ORGANS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN AND OF THE PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THIS PLAN SHOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO THE C.P.C., WHICH WOULD WORK IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT SERVICES CONCERNED.

IN ORDER FOR THE DECISIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL

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ORGANS TO BE FAITHFULLY REFLECTED IN THE PROGRAMME-BUDGET, ECOSOC SHOULD DETERMINE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE PRIORITIES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAMMES AND VERIFY THAT SUCH PRIORITIES ARE REFLECTED IN THE PROGRAMME-BUDGET.

THE BUDGETARY FUNCTIONS SHALL REMAIN ENTRUSTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOMARY PROCEDURE.

ECOSOC, AFTER THE EXECUTION OF THE BUDGET PROGRAMME, WOULD ALSO EVALUATE TO WHAT EXTENT THE PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN REALIZED. SUCH EVALUATION COULD BE HELPFUL IN ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAMMES FOR THE NEXT CYCLE.

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION
(AREA N. VII)

THE NINE DELEGATIONS ARE CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND IMPROVING THE PRESENT WORKING METHODS OF THE ACC IN ORDER TO GIVE ITS MEMBERS A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO COLLECTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AS A PREPARATION FOR DECISIONS IN ECOSOC AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES. THE FULLY COMPREHEND THE REASONING BEHIND THE PROPOSAL IN THE EXPERTS' REPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. YET THE ECOSOC COORDINATING CAPACITY AS ENVISAGED IN THE CHARTER SHOULD BE MORE FULLY UTILIZED. A REINFORCED CPC MAY ALSO - APART FROM THE TASKS RECOMMENDED TO IT BY THE WORKING GROUP ON UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MACHINERY - BE UTILIZED TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC PROGRAM SECTORS BY ASKING SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANS TO REPORT ON THEIR PROGRAM IN THE SECTOR BEING SCRUTINIZED. ECOSOC MAY CONSIDER WAYS OF IMPROVING THE FEED-BACK OF ITS VIEWS TO THE AGENCIES THROUGH THEIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS.

TO FACILITATE ECOSOC'S COORDINATING TASKS, A COMPREHENSIVE FRAME OF REFERENCE COULD BE USEFUL TO HELP THE U.N. SYSTEM ACT IN A MORE COHERENT MANNER.

BY THE AD HOC DECISIONS, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS REQUESTED TO SUBMIT AN ORGANIZATION CHART SHOWING UNCLASSIFIED

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COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO THE VARIOUS INTER-GOVERNMENTAL SECRETARIAT BODIES. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS ALSO INVITED IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ACC TO PRESENT HIS VIEWS ON OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION IN RESPECT TO THE ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE SUBMISSIONS, THE WORKING GROUP MAY WISH TO RETURN TO THE COORDINATION QUESTION AT A LATER STAGE.

SECRETARIAT SUPPORT SERVICES (AREA N. VIII)

THE NINE DELEGATIONS ADVOCATE A GREATER INPUT FROM THE SECRETARIAT INTO THE DEBATE IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SPHERE. THE SECRETARIAT'S FUNCTION SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THE ACCUMULATION OF INFORMATION, BUT SHOULD EXTEND TO THE FORMULATION OF PROPOSALS; THERE WOULD BE NO OBLIGATION ON MEMBER STATES TO ADOPT THESE PROPOSALS, BUT THE SECRETARIAT EXPERIENCE IN MANY FIELDS MIGHT ENABLE THEM TO COME UP WITH INSIGHTS NOT AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES. IT IS FELT THAT, AT THE MOMENT, THE RESEARCH CAPABILITY, IN PARTICULAR, IS NOT BEING USED EFFECTIVELY.

THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD EXAMINE CLOSELY THE VARYING FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING:

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND POLICY ANALYSIS
IN SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OTHER ORGANS, AND
SUBSIDIARY BODIES;

RESEARCH AND PLANNING'

OPERATION ACTIVITIES.

WITH REGARD TO THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM, WE SUPPORT
THE PRINCIPLE OF A UNIFIED PERSONNEL SYSTEM AND EXTENSION
AND IMPROVEMENT OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT.
UNQUOTE.
SCRANTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

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